

**PLEASE SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES AND THE UTAH REGISTRY  
OF AUTISM AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (URADD)**

**Why is continuing URADD activities important?<sup>1</sup>**

- The rise in numbers of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) cases is epidemic worldwide
- URADD provides Utah monitoring for ASD and other developmental disabilities to measure changes in prevalence over time
- URADD identifies potential risk factors before birth and in early childhood
- URADD raises public awareness about these disabilities and their effects on individuals, families, and society

**What has URADD discovered so far about Autism in Utah?<sup>2</sup>**

- Utah has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate of ASD in the nation:
  - 1 in 133 Utah children have an ASD
  - Utah has the highest rate of autism with loss of skills in the nation
- More than 1% of Utah boys born in 1994 have an ASD (1 in 79)
  - Utah boys are 7 times more likely than girls to have an ASD
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in Utah
  - Autism is 20 times higher in Utah than 20 years ago

**What is known about Autism in the US? <sup>3</sup>**

- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
  - 67 children are diagnosed per day
  - A new case is diagnosed almost every 20 minutes
  - More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined
- Autism costs the nation over \$90 billion per year, a figure expected to double in the next decade
- There is currently no medical detection or cure for autism

**How does Autism prevalence and funding for research compare to other diseases?**

- Leukemia: Affects 1 in 25,000 / Funding: \$310 million
- Muscular Dystrophy: Affects 1 in 20,000 / Funding: \$175 million
- Juvenile Diabetes: Affects 1 in 500 / Funding: \$130 million
- Autism: Affects 1 in 150 / Funding: \$15 million
  - Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases

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<sup>1</sup> Utah Registry of Autism and Developmental Disabilities (<http://health.utah.gov/autism>)

<sup>2</sup> Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 9, 2007

<sup>3</sup> Autism Speaks Retrieved December 14, 2006 from <http://www.autismspeaks.org/whatisit/facts.php>